

**AFRICAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR THE REGIONS
(ACCR)**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
AND
AUDITED ACCOUNTS
FOR
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007**



African Community Council for the Regions (ACCR)
Prospect Hall, 12 College Walk, Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29 6LE
Tel 0121 415 6690 ~ Fax 0121 415 6699
E-mail office@accr.org.uk ~ Website www.accr.org.uk

A company limited by guarantee no 4084309 ~ Registered Charity no 1088205

R.A.Lea & Co
Chartered Accountants
St.Helens House, 23-31 Vittoria Street
Birmingham B1 3ND

Tel 0121 236 3317 Fax 0121 236 4263

AFRICAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR THE REGIONS
(Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

Chairman's statement

This year has seen a period of great change and transition, there have been a number of older projects that have come to an end and new ones beginning. This is reflected in the general trend of change within the voluntary and statutory sector that has seen a move towards a contracting and tendering culture, in comparison to the previous grant structures that many organisations have been used to over the years.

ACCR has done well given these changes and although the charity saw a slight drop in income it is hoped that in the 2007-08 financial year this will be improved upon. The staff and management are working assiduously to explore new opportunities within the context of the prevailing funding culture in order to further the aims and objectives of ACCR on the behalf of the African Communities.

ACCR has done exceedingly well in reducing its financial commitments and has indeed balanced its books and is in a strong position to carry out new activities in a robust and clear manner. The charity in the previous year has provided a series of workshops for the African community and will continue to build upon this in the coming year.

Our international work has unfortunately seen further delays due to unavoidable political events in the countries where ACCR was hopeful of major work with our partners. This is unlikely in our view, to be resolved until the end of 2008.

Our office in Handsworth has moved to the Piers Road Centre that has been developed by Birmingham City Council and North Birmingham Refugee Partnership to the BME/emerging communities service the needs of local residents. This has been a very positive step, no less for the cost savings and also for the benefits for the wider community.

I wish in particular to commend the efforts of Mr Joseph Nibizi, Development Manager and Mrs Daisy Savanhu-Marere during this year of transition and challenge. I thank all the volunteers and supporters of ACCR for their contribution to the work carried out in the African community.

Mohammed Al-Rahim
Chairman, ACCR
20 November 2007

AFRICAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR THE REGIONS

(Limited by Guarantee)
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2006/2007

The Trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their report together with the audited accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2007. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in October 2000 in preparing the annual report and accounts of the charity.

The company is a registered charity, governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association and was set up on 5th October 2000.

Organisation

The Council is a membership organisation and membership is free. Members may vote at the annual general meeting. Trustees are elected from the membership, which form a committee of volunteer Trustees (the 'board'). The Trustees who are also the Directors manage the organisation. One third of Trustees stand down at the annual general meeting and Trustees may, from time to time, co-opt additional members to the board if a need is identified for a particular expertise or area of knowledge.

The board of Trustees meet every month to oversee the business of the organisation. Day to day running of the organisation is delegated to the staff supervised by the Chair of trustees. The trustees/directors who served during the financial year, 2006-2007 are shown below.

ACCR Trustees/Directors 2006 – 2007

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>DATE ELECTED</u>
M S Al-Rahim (Chairman)	Psychotherapist	10/07/2000
V O B Davies (Secretary)	Economist	05/10/2000
G R De'Ath	Lawyer	10/07/2000
B Ntivunwa (Treasurer)	Business Management	05/10/2000
Dr L.L Deng	Medical Doctor	05/10/2000

AFRICAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR THE REGIONS

(Limited by Guarantee)
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

Staff & Volunteers

The African Community Council for the Regions' staff & volunteers did a valuable work for the Charity during the year. The staff provides both professional and administrative work for the ACCR. In addition, the Volunteers provide administration support for the organisation from time to time and consultants are engaged to provide tailored development support, when needed by the Charity.

The trustees/directors value and appreciate the work done by staff, volunteers & consultants during the year.

The organisation received funding from the following funders during the financial year under review -

Funding 2006/2007 and Activities 2006-2007

African Community Links Projects: - This project is being funded through a three-year (2003/2004-2005/2006) restricted grant of £170,502 by the Big Lottery Fund. This project provides services to individuals such as advice & information on Health, Education, Skill Training and access to mainstream benefits, while the community organizations received capacity building support in terms of fund raising and governance. The immediate and ultimate beneficiaries of this project include African community organizations and individual African people living in the West Midlands.

The African Older People's Befriending, Advice and Information Service: This project is being funded by Birmingham City Council and SRB6 for a period of 2 years (2005-2007) for £76,000 through a consortium of Asian Resource Centre and Wesleyan Community Centre. The activities of the project are to provide support for the elderly people aged 55 years of age and over, the project also assists in reducing isolation, stress as well as to support and empowering them.

Kushinga :- This project is funded for 3 years (2005-2008) for £21,000 a year by Birmingham Social Services to support African carers. The project activities include Training 6 Multi lingual Volunteers, support social cultural and spiritual network. Signpost carers to appropriate services, develop carers' skills in stress management health and safety.

African Youth Project: This project received 2 year funding from Big Lottery Fund from years 2005/2006/2007 for £59,921.50.

During the year the project arranged several social activities for young African youth in community centres, and hostels across the region. The project provided dictionaries and other learning games like scrabbles, board games, weight training materials at their hostels and community centres.

The Inter-Generation Project: is a one year project (2006-2007) which received funding of £14,193 from The Award for all (£9,193) and Lloyds TSB (£5,000). The project activities include music and folk dance as a form of tackling anti social behaviour among young African people.

Supporting People: - This is a new funding regime from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) for £13,680 a year. ACCR is funded to provide a floating support to African refugees in Sandwell Borough Council.

Ziba-Ufa Project (Closing the Gap) This project is funded for one year (2007-2008) for £49, 479 by The Heritage Lottery Fund: The main aim of the project is to research into the journey and experiences as well as exploring positive angle of freedom and equality of African people from the time of slavery to the present through extensive research into the history connected to African slavery (1619 - 1807) and its impact on the abolition of slavery and the positive contribution inform of freedom equality and multiculturalism on African communities in Birmingham

Specialised Projects

Throughout the West Midlands ACCR worked to improve access to mainstream services and enhance opportunities for African immigrants including students, Refugees and asylum-seekers giving them more knowledge of UK, as well as promoting integration and preventing racial harassment, more choice and more independence. Some projects are aimed at particularly vulnerable refugee groups such as women or young people. Our innovative project serves as a pilot for wide dissemination to agencies throughout the voluntary, statutory and private sector.

AFRICAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR THE REGIONS

(Limited by Guarantee)
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 March 2007

REGISTERED OFFICE:

African Community Council for the Regions (ACCR)
Prospect Hall
12 College Walk
Selly Oak
Birmingham
B29 6LE

Tel 0121 415 6692 Fax 0121 415 6699

E-mail office@accr.org.uk Website www.accr.org.uk

AUDITORS:

R A Lea & Co
Chartered Accountants
St Helens House 23-31 Vittoria Street
Birmingham B1 3ND

BANKERS:

Unity Trust Bank
Nine Brindley Place
4 Oozells Square
Birmingham B21 2HB

RISK MANAGEMENT:

The Trustees have examined their major strategic, business and operation risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks

AUDITORS:

In accordance with section 385 of the Companies Act 1985, a resolution was passed to appoint R A Lea & Co as auditors of the Charity and reappointment will be put to the members at the Annual General Meeting

AFRICAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR THE REGIONS

(Limited by Guarantee)
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 March 2007

Trustees' Responsibilities in relation to the accounts

Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year that gives a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs and of its income and expenditure for that year. In preparing these accounts the Trustees are required to

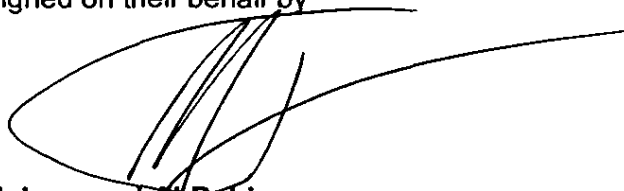
- a) Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- b) Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- c) Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is appropriate to presume that the company will continue to operate,
- d) State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence taking steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities

Approved by the Trustees on

28/01/08.

Signed on their behalf by



Mohammed Al-Rahim
Chairman, ACCR

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
AFRICAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR THE REGIONS

We have audited the financial statements of African Community Council for the Regions for the year ended 31 March 2007 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes on pages 9 to 16. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein and the requirements of the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2005)

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Auditors

As described in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities the trustees, who are also the trustees for the purposes of charity law, are responsible for the preparation of the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice)

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland)

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We report to you whether in our opinion the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report is consistent with the financial statements. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the charity has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding trustees' remuneration and transactions is not disclosed.

We read the Trustees' Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

Basis of Audit Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
AFRICAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR THE REGIONS
(CONTINUED)

Opinion

In our opinion

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2007 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, in the year then ended,
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985, and
- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report is consistent with the financial statements

RA Lea & Co. Ltd,

R A Lea and Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
23-31 Vittoria Street
Birmingham B1 3ND

Date *28/01/08.*

AFRICAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR THE REGIONS

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007**

		2007			2006
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Total £
INCOMING RESOURCES:					
Activities in furtherance of the Charity's objects:					
Donations and grants	3	6,120	129,653	135,773	173,887
Activities in generating funds:					
Other Income		-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		6,120	129,653	135,773	173,887
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of activities in furtherance of the Charity's objects:					
Delivery of charitable services	6	<u>3,830</u>	<u>124,581</u>	<u>128,441</u>	<u>149,620</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR		2,290	5,072	7,362	24,267
Transfer between funds		-	-	:	-
FUND BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 APRIL 2006		<u>(3,401)</u>	<u>24,768</u>	<u>21,367</u>	<u>24,267</u>
FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 MARCH 2007		<u>(1,111)</u>	<u>29,840</u>	<u>28,729</u>	<u>21,367</u>

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year

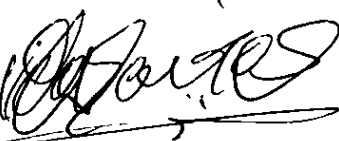
The notes on pages 11 to 15 form part of these accounts

AFRICAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR THE REGIONS

**BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 MARCH 2007**

	Note	2007 £	2006 £
FIXED ASSETS:			
Tangible Assets	7	<u>2,579</u>	<u>3,848</u>
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Trade Debtors		-	15,076
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>35,594</u>	<u>16,839</u>
		<u>35,594</u>	<u>31,915</u>
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year:			
Taxation and other social security costs		3,119	11,459
Other creditors		3,976	-
Accruals		<u>2,350</u>	<u>2,937</u>
		<u>9,445</u>	<u>14,396</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS/ (LIABILITIES)		<u>26,150</u>	<u>17,519</u>
NET ASSETS/ (LIABILITIES)		<u>28,729</u>	<u>21,367</u>
Financed By			
FUNDS :			
Unrestricted funds		(1,111)	(3,041)
Restrcted funds	8	<u>29,840</u>	<u>24,768</u>
FUNDS RETAINED AT 31 MARCH 2007		<u>28,729</u>	<u>21,367</u>

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 28/1/08
And signed on their behalf by



V.O.B. Davies
Company Secretary

The notes on pages 11 to 15 form part of these accounts.

AFRICAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR THE REGIONS

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

1. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with the statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting by Charities (SORP 2005) issued in October 2005, applicable accounting standards and the Companies Act 1985

The Charity is reliant on donations and grant to fund its activities. During the period to 31 March 2004, the Charity completed projects under the Birmingham Supporting People Project. Whilst a significant proportion of monies spent under this project have been paid, an amount of £17,058 remains under negotiation with Birmingham City Council and has not been paid at the date of approval of these accounts. The Trustees are of the belief that all services under the contract have been performed and the money owed will be settled in due course.

The Trustees have prepared the accounts on a going concern basis which assumes that African Community Council for the Regions will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future based upon the satisfactory receipt of monies owed and the settlement of unpaid liabilities.

2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the accounts are as follows:

2.1 INCOMING RESOURCES:

Donations and Grants

Income from donations and grants, including capital grants, is included in income resources when these are receivable, except as follows:

- When donors specify that the donations and grants given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods, the income is deferred until those periods,
- When donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the charity becomes entitled to use such income, the income is deferred and not included in incoming resources until the pre-conditions for use have been met,
- When donors specify that the donations and grants, including capital grants, are for particular restricted purposes, which do not amount to pre-conditions regarding entitlement, this income is included in incoming resources of restricted funds when receivable.

AFRICAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR THE REGIONS

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

2.2 RESOURCES EXPENDED:

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered

2.3 FUND ACCOUNTING:

Funds held by the charity are either

Unrestricted general funds – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees, or

Restricted funds – these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes

2.4 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION:

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation

Fixed assets are depreciated over their estimated useful lives as follows

Computer and office equipment - 25% straight line

3. DONATIONS AND GRANTS:

The restricted grants received during the year were from the following organisations

	2007	2006
	£	£
Birmingham Supporting People	-	(12,881)
Sandwell MBC	13,949	13,339
Big Lottery Heritage Fund	24,700	-
Big Lottery Youth Project	29,574	16,582
Community Fund Links Project	-	58,079
Awards For All England	9,193	-
Big Lottery Community Fund	1,540	-
SRB6 – Elderly Project	26,097	42,520
Kushinga 1	21,000	21,305
Kushinga 2	3,600	20,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>129,653</u>	<u>158,944</u>

AFRICAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR THE REGIONS

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

4. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS:

At 31 March 2007, the company had no financial commitments

5. STAFF COSTS AND TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION:

	2007 £	2006 £
Staff costs	<u>106,839</u>	<u>105,757</u>
	Number	Number
The monthly average number of employees during the year was made up as follows	4	4

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £50,000

Dr L L Deng is a Trustee and received a salary of £24,182 during the year (£24,812 2005/6) as authorised by the Charities Commission and pursuant to empowering clauses in the constitution

6. DELIVERY OF CHARITABLE SERVICES:

	2007		2006
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	£
Wages and Salaries	1,515	105,324	105,757
Rent and service charge	1,540	6,835	13,729
Project costs	-	1,209	18,619
Office function expenses	-	20	120
General office expenses	-	5,488	3,459
Auditors fees for audit services	-	2,057	3,553
Book-keeper	-	850	1,245
Volunteer expenses	-	758	221
Professional Fees	-	1,446	-
Bank charges	-	100	20
Hardship Payments	-	-	-
Training Costs	-	-	-
Sundry expenses	-	-	-
Depreciation	<u>775</u>	<u>494</u>	<u>2,897</u>
	<u>3,830</u>	<u>124,581</u>	<u>149,620</u>

AFRICAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR THE REGIONS

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007**

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS:

	Computer & Office Equipment £
COST:	
At 1 April 2006	11,321
Additions	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2007	<u>11,321</u>
DEPRECIATION:	
At 1 April 2006	7,473
Provision for the year	<u>1,269</u>
At 31 March 2007	<u>8,742</u>
NET BOOK VALUE:	
At 31 March 2007	<u>2,579</u>
<i>At 1 April 2006</i>	<u><i>3,848</i></u>

8. RESTRICTED FUNDS:

	At 1.4.2006	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	At 31.3.2007
	£	£	£	£
Sandwell MBC	-	13,949	13,949	-
Big Lottery Heritage Fund	-	24,700	-	24,700
Big Lottery Community Fund	-	1,540	-	1,540
Big Lottery Youth Project	-	29,574	29,574	-
Awards For All England	-	9,193	9,193	-
SRB6 – Elderly Project	3,463	26,097	29,560	-
Kushinga 1	21,305	21,000	42,305	-
Kushinga 2	<u>-</u>	<u>3,600</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,600</u>
	<u>24,768</u>	<u>129,653</u>	<u>124,581</u>	<u>29,840</u>

AFRICAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR THE REGIONS

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

9. ANALYSIS OF NET LIABILITIES BETWEEN FUNDS:

Fund Balances are represented by	Un- Restricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Tangible assets	-	2,579	2,579
Current assets	-	31,215	31,619
Current liabilities	<u>(1,111)</u>	<u>(4,358)</u>	<u>(3,954)</u>
Total Net Assets/ (Liabilities)	<u>(1,111)</u>	<u>29,840</u>	<u>30,244</u>

10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS:

During the year the Charity had transactions with Freshwinds, a charity in which Mr Mohammed Al-Rahim (Trustee and Chairman) is also a Trustee. The facilities of Freshwinds were used by the Charity for a small fee agreed by the Trustees. This totalled £1,631 in 2007 (2006 nil).

11. TRANSACTIONS WITH DIRECTORS/TRUSTEES:

During the year the Directors and Trustees received payment for out of pocket expenses when performing their duties. These amounts were not significant in either the current year or last year.